



# SnowNews

## Welcome to the “new look” SnowNews!

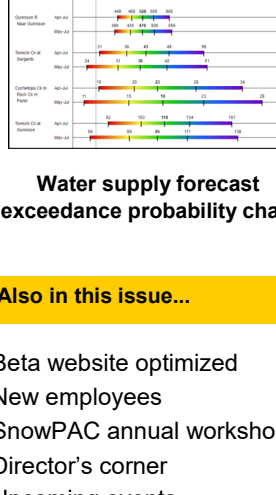
We’ve updated the format for our newsletter. The goal is to keep readers up-to-date about ongoing development projects at the National Water and Climate Center, new products and services, and Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program activities.

## Water Supply Forecast Charting Tool

Create regional water supply forecast exceedance probability charts using the new [Water Supply Forecast Charting Tool](#).

Developed in coordination with Nevada Water Supply Specialist **Jeff Anderson**, this tool provides a visual representation of the streamflow forecast range showing the five exceedance probabilities compared to the 30-year average, median, and historic maximum and minimum.

[More Details](#)

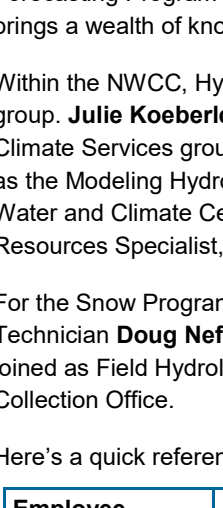


Water supply forecast exceedance probability chart

### Also in this issue...

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## Beta website optimized for mobile devices



The new, Beta version of the [National Water and Climate Center’s website](#) supports mobile devices. This version has all the features of the legacy website, optimized for smartphones and tablets.

Desktop users will notice that the left-hand menu on the legacy website has been replaced by dropdown menus as the top navigation. A consistent data delivery for each climatic element provides users with quick access to reports, maps and graphs.

Expanded Help Centers for several products, including the Interactive Map, Report Generator, and the Update Report, assist both new and experienced users.

## NWCC and Snow Program welcome new employees

The National Water and Climate Center (NWCC) and Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program are pleased to welcome several new employees to their ranks. Each brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to their position.

Within the NWCC, Hydrologist **Melissa Webb** is supporting the Water and Climate Monitoring group. **Julie Koeberle** and **Lexi Landers** are the new Forecast Hydrologists in the Water and Climate Services group. **Sean Fleming** has also joined the Water and Climate Services group as the Modeling Hydrologist. **Bruce Green** is the new Management Analyst for the National Water and Climate Center, reporting to Mike Strobel. **Heather Hofman** is the Natural Resources Specialist, also reporting to Mike Strobel.

For the Snow Program, Utah welcomes Hydrologist **Dave Eiriksson** and Electronics Technician **Doug Neff** to their team. In Oregon, **Zoe Wellschlager** and **Allen Buckman** have joined as Field Hydrologists. And, **Zack Wilson** is the new Hydrologist for the Colorado Data Collection Office.

Here’s a quick reference to contact information. Welcome everyone!

Employee	Phone	Role	Team Lead
<a href="#">Melissa Webb</a>	503-414-3021	Hydrologist	Deb Harms
<a href="#">Julie Koeberle</a>	503-414-3035	Forecast Hydrologist	Cara McCarthy
<a href="#">Lexi Landers</a>	406-587-6874	Forecast Hydrologist	Cara McCarthy
<a href="#">Sean Fleming</a>	503-414-3066	Modeling Hydrologist	Cara McCarthy
<a href="#">Bruce Green</a>	503-414-3010	Management Analyst	Mike Strobel
<a href="#">Heather Hofman</a>	503-414-3030	Natural Resources Specialist	Mike Strobel
<a href="#">Dave Eiriksson</a>	385-285-3119	Hydrologist	Jordan Clayton
<a href="#">Doug Neff</a>	385-285-3116	Electronics Technician	Jordan Clayton
<a href="#">Zoe Wellschlager</a>	503-414-3270	Field Hydrologist	Scott Oviatt
<a href="#">Allen Buckman</a>	503-414-3246	Field Hydrologist	Scott Oviatt
<a href="#">Zack Wilson</a>	720-544-2856	Hydrologist	Brian Domonkos

[Contact Help Center](#)



## SnowPAC Annual Workshop held in Bozeman, Montana

**Brian Domonkos**  
Colorado Data Collection Office Supervisor

Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program leadership met during the week of December 9<sup>th</sup> for the 2019 Snow Program Advisory Council (SnowPAC) Meeting this year in Bozeman, Montana. After a warm welcome from Tom Watson, Montana NRCS State Conservationist, the SnowPAC jumped right into discussion of many high priority topics. Several years ago SnowPAC devised a Working/Advisory Group framework which charged select interested employees to dig deeper to address program-wide issues. Continuing with this framework, SnowPAC heard updates from each Working and Advisory Group, all making progress toward their goals. Group discussions included:

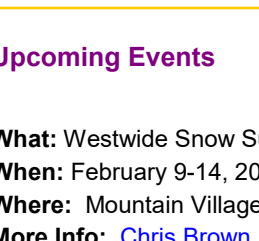
- \* Information Technology Support Advisory Group
- \* Historical Air Temperature Bias Correction Working Group
- \* Air Temperature Sensor Working Group
- \* Forecast Verification Working Group
- \* Snow Water Equivalent Sensor Working Group
- \* Central Metadata Working Group
- \* Precipitation Advisory Group
- \* DMP Replacement Working Group
- \* Basin Management Working Group
- \* Telemetry Working Group

Other meeting discussion topics included:

- \* Resource and staff planning
- \* Program priorities
- \* Program modernization efforts - ongoing and needed
- \* Program Information Technology issues and efforts
- \* DCO staff and location structure
- \* 1991 – 2020 normals calculation process planning

Progress was made across all topics particularly with the Forecast Verification Working Group. The mission of the working group was completed and to that end the working group was dissolved. Other program accomplishments include: considerable progress in upgrading telemetry equipment to technology beyond meteor burst equipment, identifying issues with IT modernization efforts, and work to coordinate state-based efforts to upgrade equipment and maintenance processes.

## Director’s corner: Light at the end of the tunnel



The past 6-8 years have been, quite honestly, a challenge for us. We have seen reductions in budgets, sequestration, hiring freezes, government shutdowns, reorganization of our agency/department, many key leadership positions filled with acting roles and difficulties hiring to keep recruitment even with retirements. The inability to fill positions has been the biggest of these challenges and placed a heavy burden on remaining staff to maintain a high level of productivity and quality of our services, with each person often covering the workload of two or more people. Critical areas of IT support, field operations, forecasting, and product delivery were a struggle to cover with existing staff and resources.

That said, I am truly pleased to report that there have recently been large gains in hiring new personnel, investments and support to our IT needs and stability in our budgets. This past year, we have been working with the FPAC Business Center to address modernization and improvements in our IT capabilities. And we have brought on new employees to fill key roles within the National Water and Climate Center (NWCC). I would like to highlight some of the new and expected additions to our staff.

One new hire will be a Program Manager for the Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting (SSWSF) Program who will be stationed at our headquarters in Washington D.C. and will represent the program at both internal and external meetings and functions. This position will oversee program budgets and operations, handle many agency and department information requests, and provide guidance on future directions related to our mission.

Within NWCC, we have recently hired two additional forecast hydrologists who will provide water supply forecasts and expertise for basins across the western US. We hired a hydrologist with expertise in modeling to continue our efforts to improve and upgrade these capabilities. We filled a key role of hydrologist within the Water and Climate Monitoring Branch. Our new Natural Resource Specialist will have an important role in being the link between our data, forecasts, and water and climate expertise with other programs within NRCS and in other agencies. We have two Management Analysts, one who will focus on handling agreements, contracts and related business, and the other coming onboard soon, supporting our IT and data management efforts. Our new Secretary, also coming onboard soon, will provide support for center operations and correspondence. These new additions are going to play important roles in the overall operations and activities within NRCS and NWCC.

We still have other positions to fill, including a Lead Electronics Technician, Management Analyst and Statistical Assistant. These positions are in our Human Resources system and we hope to advertise and fill them soon.

I am fully optimistic on the outlook for NWCC. There is still much work to be done, time necessary to have new staff come up to speed on their duties, and much more to achieve on IT efforts to update and modernize our system, but we are getting there. Yes, I do see the light at the end of the tunnel and many good days ahead. I appreciate all the support and understanding we have received from our many partners and colleagues during this transition period. It has been a long journey and we will continue to move forward.

Mike

## Upcoming Events

- What:** Westwide Snow Survey Training School

**When:** February 9-14, 2020

**Where:** Mountain Village Resort, Stanley, Idaho

**More Info:** [Chris Brown](#), 503-414-3090
- What:** 88th Western Snow Conference

**When:** April 20-23, 2020

**Where:** Whistler, British Columbia, Canada

**More Info:** [Conference Website](#)

## Photo of the Month



Gray Creek, Mt. Rose Wilderness area, Nevada. Photo by: Jeff Anderson, Nevada Water Supply Specialist.

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